

September 11, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and National Park Service Director Fran Manella announced that all entrance fees to all of the 385 units of the National Park System would be waived over Veterans Day weekend.

The events of September 11 will never be erased from our memories. Each of us will remember where we were and what we were doing on that tragic day. They have taken their toll upon many of us in so many ways. Since these events, many have found solace in America's national parks for healing. All of our national parks serve as a tool to recapture the American spirit and provide much of the healing Americans are looking for.

I applaud the Secretary's announcement and encourage all Americans to take advantage of this weekend for unity, hope, and healing by visiting the diverse treasures of America's national park system.

VETERANS DAY

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, in anticipation of Veterans Day, I rise to thank the millions of men and women who have served in the United States military for their contributions to our Nation.

Many of our veterans first came to this country as immigrants in search of freedom and the opportunity to live in a country with liberty and justice. And they have demonstrated their belief in the principles of our great country with their willingness to put their lives on the line to defend the Nation which has given them so many new opportunities.

For example, after becoming American citizens in 1917, over 18,000 Puerto Rican citizens served America proudly in World War I. And during World War II, more than 300,000 Mexican-Americans served in the United States Armed Forces. Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon holds the distinction of capturing more enemy soldiers than anyone else in the history of United States military conflicts.

Over 81,400 Asian-Pacific Islanders served during the Vietnam War. These are but a few examples.

On Veterans Day, we all need to remember the sacrifices that veterans have made to protect our great Nation.

SALUTE TO RICHMOND AND WILL ROGERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-CHILDREN

(Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the students of Richmond Elementary and Will Rogers Elementary School in my hometown of Stillwater, Oklahoma, for

their efforts and contributions to help the children of Afghanistan.

This past Monday, I met with my friend, Dr. Ann Dugger, and the school's principal, Dr. Gay Washington, of Richmond and also Mrs. Jerry Walstad of Will Rogers Elementary, and spoke to several hundred school students who gathered for an assembly. At this assembly it was announced that the children had raised more than \$500, and I was asked to deliver the check to the appropriate person from the White House for America's Fund for Afghan Children.

Yesterday I met with Governor Tom Ridge, Director of Homeland Security, and Bob Marsh, the White House liaison, about the contributions from the Stillwater schoolchildren. We can all be proud of the unselfish acts of kindness and generosity exhibited by these young Americans.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask the House to join me in thanking these schoolchildren from Stillwater, and encourage other schoolchildren around our Nation, for being shining examples of America's compassion. These children, like our children and grandchildren, have the right to live without fear. That is why we are fighting the war against terrorism.

BIOTERRORISM PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we will commemorate veterans, honoring those who have served in America's armed services in times of peace and times of war. Tragically, this same weekend will mark the 2-month anniversary of September 11, 2 months since international terrorists declared war on the United States and the civilized world.

The veterans of America's war on terrorism are fighting today in Afghanistan. The veterans of America's war on terrorism are also our courageous first responders: our firefighters, our police, our emergency hospital personnel, our school administrators, even our school nurses. Our first responders are in the trenches, and it is our job in Congress to ensure they have all the resources they need to defend themselves and defend our people.

That is why I am urging my colleagues to join me in sponsoring the Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2001, providing both long-term and short-term strategies for fighting our new war, from laboratories to police stations, to firehouses and nursing tables.

We may not completely destroy the war on terrorism in 2 months or even 2 years. We may have to be on guard for 2 decades. But we shall prevail and American children will be secure because of our efforts.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE-PASSED ECONOMIC SECURITY PACKAGE

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House-passed economic security package that will help American families and revive economic growth in our country.

I have always believed that the private sector is the true engine of opportunity in our country. Increased Federal spending will not improve the fundamentals of our economy. In these difficult economic times, the role of Congress should be to create an environment of opportunity for America's families.

It is the hard work and sheer determination of individuals, families, and small business entrepreneurs that make this country what it is today. It will be these same qualities that will revitalize the American economy after the September 11 attacks.

The House legislation offers tax cuts for middle class families and provides incentives for businesses to invest in capital and human resources, thereby creating jobs and opportunity.

Congress must act now. The House has acted by passing this strong package to ensure economic security. The President has called on Congress to send him a bill that he can sign into law this month, and I urge Congress to heed his call.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, we are told that silence is golden. However, what happens when the body being silenced is the House of Representatives?

Most certainly my colleagues would object to the suppression of our voice and our role in the debate in consideration of legislative matters. Yet, without trade promotion authority, our voices are silenced regarding trade.

Trade promotion authority allows trade agreements to be considered as congressional executive agreements. These agreements represent procedural compromises. The President forgoes his ability to single-handedly negotiate treaties and, instead, agrees to consult closely with the Congress to ensure that congressional priorities are heard. Congress, in turn, commits to an up or down vote, but waives the right to offer amendments.

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Some of my colleagues seem to think that our inability to offer amendments is too great a sacrifice. What then is the alternative? Without TPA, the President would unilaterally negotiate a treaty which would then be presented solely to the Senate for ratification. This obviously begs the question where